(c) whether Government have ordered any enquiry into the fire in the Central Ordnance Depots; and

(d) if so, what is the outcome of the said inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) The causes of fire, extent and value of loss etc., will be known after the Staff Court of Inquiry ordered for the purpose has completed its work and submitted its report. The Inquiry is likely to be completed during this month and the submission of its report is expected thereafter.

However, as per the preliminary investigation, approximately 2000 tonnes of ammunition are reported to have been lost. The value of ammunition has been provisionally estimated to be Rs. 19 crore.

Vacant posts in the department of Ocean Development

1032. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts lying vacant in the Department of Ocean Development during the period from 1984-85 to 1987-88;

(b) what are the reasons for the delay in filling up these vacancies;

(c) by when these posts are likely to be filled up; and

(d) details of remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a)

Year	No. of sanctione posts existing	No. of posts lying vacant out of Col. (2) as on 31-3-1988
1984-85	14	2
1985-86	No change	No change
1986-87	18 (including the old posts)	6 (including 2 old vacant posts)
1987-88	No change	No change

(b) and (c) As per recruitment rules, efforts have been made to fill up the vacanies in time. When suitable candidates were not available by transfer on deputation, the method of direct recruitment was resorted to and this process took long time. In several cases, persons even after selection have not joined ultimately despite reminders. In some cases the Union Public Service Commission did not get suitable candidates. It is, however, difficult to state definitely by which time the posts lying vacant now will be filled up becaus even after a person is selected, h may not join immediately or at all.

(d) Does not arise.

SC and ST Judges in the High Courts

1033. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state: